

Hello. My name is Kathleen O'Callaghan. So you know a little about my background, I worked for the State of Connecticut for 22 years as a Court Reporter, Official Court Reporter and I served a two-year stint as Acting Supervisor of Transcript Services. I am now on disability retirement. I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1995. I am one of the lucky ones as I was able to walk in and stand here today 17 years after diagnosis.

Throughout those years, I have used marijuana as a medicine as it helps my coordination, balance, and spasms. In particular, I have proven to myself how well it works with an exercise given to me by my physical therapist which is to stand in place with one foot in front of the other without the use of a stabilizer. In a normal state of mind, I can hold that stance for 10 seconds if I am lucky. I surprised myself one night when using marijuana when I held that stance for over ten minutes!

I have taken some medications over the years to theoretically slow the progression of the disease but there is nothing to relieve my symptoms.

I do not use marijuana socially nor recreationally. It is strictly for medical purposes.

I am asking you to please approve this bill so I can access my medicine safely. Now I take risks in places I need to buy it and I cannot be assured it is natural and not mixed with legal or illegal substances.